



Insight

Volume 5, No. 13

U.S. Army Intelligence & Security Command

September 30, 2005

Honoring the workforce

by **Maj. Gen. John DeFreitas, III**
Headquarters INSCOM

National Hispanic Month is underway and as the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command highlights its many Hispanic Soldiers, civilians, and contractors, it is important for us to remember the significant accomplishments of those whom we honor.

The term Hispanic, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, refers to Spanish-speaking people in the United States of any race. Hispanic Heritage Month historically begins on Sept. 15, the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries — Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico declared its independence on Sept. 16 and Chile on Sept. 18.

Throughout the Army's history Hispanics have volunteered to serve and fight for our country. Hispanics are now just over nine percent of all Americans in the active duty military force and 8.5 percent of all persons serving in the National Guard and Reserves.

David Barkley, an enlisted private in the U.S. Army, was the first Hispanic American to be awarded the Medal of Honor. During World War I, he volun-

tarily swam the icy Meuse River in France to gather information behind German lines. He drowned on the way back from the Meuse mission and was honored posthumously with the Medal of Honor.

Hispanic men and women continue to step up to the challenge and serve honorably. On Sept. 17, six Hispanic-American servicewomen were honored for their outstanding achievements in the military services and as role models. One of the six, Lt. Col. Marcela G. Alvarado, was the first in her family to graduate from college. Commissioned as a military intelligence officer in 1987, Alvarado has been a platoon leader, executive officer, company commander and an ROTC instructor, and has held various staff-level posts. She recently served as the executive officer for the Army's assistant deputy chief of staff for intelligence, where she became a key member of the Abu Ghraib prison abuse investigation team.

INSCOM is proud of the sacrifices and accomplishments of its Hispanic Soldiers, civilians, and contractors. We would not be successful without the blend of dedicated people who work tirelessly to



file photo

Maj. Gen. John DeFreitas, III

provide continued support the warfighter and the Army's combatant commands as we fight the Global War of Terror.

Throughout the coming months, our country will celebrate many holidays and recognize people in many walks of life. Let's be mindful of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice that we may enjoy these festive occasions.

INSCOM is truly a great place to work. This command couldn't do it without the many people who are INSCOM, at its core level. I salute your service and dedication in making INSCOM a success; keep up the good work as we all work together as we transition into the Intelligence force of the future.



A new web site is helping to give Army spouses more employment options.

photo by Sgt. Tricia O. Ortiz

Web site helps spouses

The Army has announced a new spouse employment web site containing more than 26,000 job vacancies.

The address for the new web site is:

www.militaryspousejobsearch.org.

It is designed to provide spouses employment opportunities while fulfilling corporate America's demand for skilled workers.

Military Spouse Job Search is a database where spouses can build their resumes and research valuable information. Spouses can also access career tools, labor market information, career assessment, training and education opportunities as well as information on

colleges and technical schools.

The site also has a financial aid center for spouses considering going back to school and a relocation center for families considering a permanent move or temporary change of location.

The new web site is a joint venture between Army Spouse Employment Partnership, U.S. Community and Family Support Center, and the Department of Labor.

"It was easy to create an account," said Christine Jumper, an Army spouse who lives near Fort Lee, Va. "I had immediate access to the skills profiler which was great." (ARNEWS)

INSCOM Insight is published as a Command Information e-publication for the men and women of the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command under the provisions of AR 360-1.

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photo by Sgt. Tricia O. Ortiz

During the NCO and Soldier of the Year competition, hopeful Soldiers must pass a physical fitness test.

INSCOM selects top NCO, Soldier

by Sgt. Tricia O. Ortiz
INSCOM Public Affairs

The best Soldiers and noncommissioned officers from the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command went toe-to-toe competing at the 2005 INSCOM Soldier of the Year Board at Fort Picket, Va., in August.

Sgt. Evan M. Pacer, an electronic intelligence analyst from the 743rd Military Intelligence Battalion, 704th MI Group, was selected as the INSCOM NCO of the Year and Pfc. Philip Charles Michael Fox, an intelligence analyst from the 524th MI Battalion, 501st MI Brigade, earned the INSCOM Soldier of the Year honors.

As the INSCOM NCO and

Soldier of the Year, Pacer and Fox represented the command at the U. S. Army North Capital Region Board, where Fox was selected the Soldier of the Year.

"The new INSCOM NCO and Soldier of the Year are very humble and I am very proud of them," said Command Sgt. Maj. Maureen Johnson, INSCOM command sergeant major.

During the competition, all of the Soldiers had to accomplish the following events: physical fitness, written exam, an essay, oral board, and warrior tasks — including evaluating a casualty, providing immediate first aid, responding to a chemical or biological hazard/attack.

Other challenges during the competition included day and night land navigation, an M16A2 rifle qualification range and a test on the M-249 squad assault weapon.

To spice things up, there was also a mystery event during the competition — which turned out to be a live fire of a claymore. Each of the Soldiers was tested on how to fire a claymore and then they were able to fire one. This event was a highlight for many of the Soldiers at the competition.

"I had never fired a claymore before," said Sgt. Arlo R. Séas, one of the competitors. "Many Soldiers through out their Army career don't get to fire

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one.”

To get as far as they have, the Soldiers competed in preliminary boards at unit, battalion, brigade, and region levels. At each board, the Soldiers were required to have a current physical training test, rifle qualification and common task training. They were tested by senior NCOs who judged them on their appearance and basic military knowledge.

With the exception of the mystery event, all of the competitors knew each of the areas that the INSCOM-level board would focus on. Those Soldiers who won are quick to point out their success didn't come out over night — months and months of preparation went into

their preparation.

“It does not happen within two months to reach this level,” said Fox. “It takes at least six months to get this point. You can't let yourself burn out on boards. You have to have the right attitude and be able to maintain your performance.”

Pacer agreed with Fox's perspective.

“You can't just be a good Soldier once in a while for these boards,” said Pacer. “You have to look your best day in and day out — pressed uniform and shiny boots. You need to look and perform at 100 percent.”

Competing alongside Pacer was: Staff Sgt. Raymond L. Mack, represent-

ing the Pacific Region, Sgt. Aron Y. McDaniel, representing the Atlantic region, Sgt. Ryan S. Catlett and Sgt. Arlo R. Séas, representing the America's Region.

The other Soldier of the Year hopefuls were: Spc. Robert B. Sells, representing Atlantic Region, Spc. Stacy J. Materio and Spc. Jennifer A. Buttermore, representing the America's Region.

As the competitions came to a close, the INSCOM command sergeant major had an important message for the intelligence professionals who participated.

“I can only declare one NCO and Soldier of the Year, but they are all winners to me,” Johnson said.



photo by Sgt. Tricia O. Ortiz

Soldiers begin the land navigation portion of the INSCOM NCO and Soldier of the Year competition.

Adjusting to life after Hurricane Katrina

Federal employees traveling on official government business in the areas ravaged by Hurricane Katrina are eligible to be reimbursed at up to three times the normal per diem rate, according to the General Services Administration.

GSA also is waiving certain provisions of the Federal Travel Regulation, including the rules governing house-hunting trips for federal employees relocating to areas affected by the hurricane, because of the expected difficulty in finding lodging facilities and adequate meals. For example, GSA has

lifted the provision requiring temporary lodging for relocated employees to be in "reasonable proximity" to their new place of work.

The waivers -- announced in a Sept. 2 bulletin signed by G. Martin Wagner, head of GSA's governmentwide policy office and published on the agency's per diem web page -- will remain in effect through March 1, 2006, unless extended.

GSA is encouraging agencies to postpone nonessential travel to regions affected by Hurricane Katrina for 90 days from Aug. 29, the day President

Bush declared disaster areas in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi. If that isn't possible, then agencies can authorize expense reimbursements at the actual cost up to three times the normal per diem rate. Employees typically have to petition for reimbursements above the normal rate.

The bulletin also urges agencies to consider delaying employee relocations to regions affected by Katrina, since the FTR prohibits extending the 120-day limit for reimbursing employees for temporary living accommodations after a relocation. GSA is concerned employees will have a difficult time finding permanent housing in hurricane-ravaged areas.

Because of the widespread damage from Katrina, agencies are allowed to decide where to use the waivers. Traditionally, GSA has limited such waivers to presidentially declared disaster areas.

GSA announced fiscal 2006 per diem rates earlier this month. They will take effect on Oct. 1. The 2006 rates include a \$133 maximum lodging rate per night in New Orleans through May 31, 2006, and a \$103 limit from June 1 through Sept. 30, 2006.

A search on a number of hotel booking web sites found one hotel available in New Orleans this week -- Le Pavillon Hotel, near the city's French Quarter. Room rates ranged from \$279 to \$1,695 per night. (ARNEWS)



photo by Tech. Sgt. Roger M. Dey

The General Services Administration came out with new guidelines for Soldiers and civilians who are sent to New Orleans on official business.

Nominations accepted thru Dec.

The U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command is now accepting nominations for the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award Program.

The award is intended to recognize company grade officers who demonstrate the ideals for which MacArthur stood – duty, honor, and country – and promotes effective junior officer leadership throughout the Army.

Company grade officers (captain and below) and warrant officers (chief warrant officer 2 and below) are eligible, as long as they are not on the promotion list for major or chief warrant officer 3. Nomination packets must be turned in before Dec. 2.

For more information, please contact Ron Gunter at 703-428-4687 or Gloria Rallis at 703-428-4681.



Hispanic Heritage Month celebration

photo by Bob Bills

Brig. Gen. Rhett A. Hernandez was the guest speaker during the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command's Hispanic Heritage Month celebration at the Nolan Bldg., Fort Belvoir, Va., Sept. 20.

Hernandez spoke on the theme "Hispanic Americans: Strong and Colorful Threads in the American Fabric." Hispanic Heritage Month begins Sept. 15, the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries — Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua — and ends Oct. 15.



photo by Tina Miles

Members of the 902nd Military Intelligence Group bow their heads during a moment of reflection.

902nd MI Group remembers 9/11

by Tina Miles
902nd MI Group

Four years later, the impact of Sept. 11 still bears great significance to our nation. Even in the midst of the recent Hurricane Katrina devastation our country has endured, we pause and find time to reflect upon those who lost their lives in New York City, Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania; and in doing so the 902nd Military Intelligence Group held a commemoration ceremony at Fort Meade, Md., Sept. 12.

The ceremony opened with a scripture reading by Chaplain (Maj.) Joseph Ko, 902nd MI Group. That was followed by remarks from the commander, Col. Gregg C. Potter, who thanked everyone for joining the

commemoration and reminded them it was both appropriate and important to remember the terrorist attacks and the significant impact it had on our nation. "The attacks of 9/11 have changed the course of history and were the catalyst for this nation to act in order to defeat terrorists and terrorist acts around the world," Potter said, and added, "This is a fight we did not choose but one we will most certainly win."

Ko noted that the observance was "especially needed at this time when several congregation members had shared their personal pain and sorrow of both Sept. 11 and Hurricane Katrina." He said that so many people have requested remembrance for

the victims of both tragedies.

Potter and Ko each pointed out that both tragedies have been a "wake-up call" to our nation. Both speakers also asked the audience to remember those who were given untimely deaths and to remember their families and friends as well. "We are almost afraid to make ourselves remember, but we are more afraid to forget," Ko said.

The memorial closed with a musical tribute to our country as Donna Curry, a Department of the Army civilian, 310th Military Intelligence Battalion, 902nd MI Group, sang "*Only God Can Heal*" and Ko ended with a pastoral benediction. The audience then departed in silent reflection.